コミックターミナル
FISHING FOOLS
VOLUME 1
第1集
YAGUCHI PRODUCTIONS
矢口プロ作品
矢口高雄
YAGUCHI TAKAO
Takao Yaguchi

NMG COMICS

FISHING FOOLS

VOLUME 1

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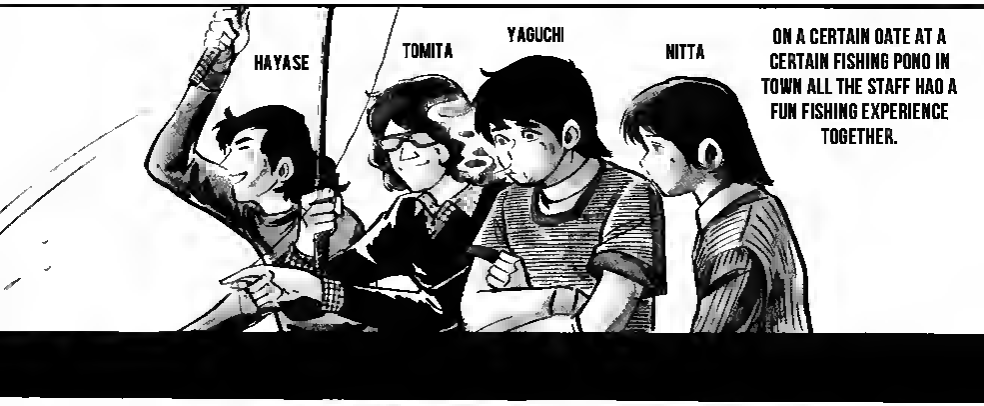

HAYASE
TOMITA
YAGUCHI
NITTA
ON A CERTAIN DATE AT A CERTAIN FISHING PONO IN TOWN ALL THE STAFF HAD A FUN FISHING EXPERIENCE TOGETHER.

NITTA:
WE DON'T SEEM TO BE CATCHING MUCH,SENSEI...

YAGUCHI:
HMM.. I DION'T THINK IT WAS SUPPOSED TO GO LIKE THIS...

TOMITA:
SEEMS LIKE YOUR SKILL ISN'T MUCH TO BOAST ABOUT TODAY, EVEN COMPARED TO US.. BUT IT MAKES SENSE THAT THERE'D BE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SIMPLE THEORY AND THE REAL DEAL HEH HEH HEH...

YAGUCHI:
IMBECILES! KEEP IT DOWN. THE POINT ISN'T TO CATCH AS MANY FISH AS YOU CAN. IT'S TO COMMUNE WITH THE NATURE AROUND YOU AND BECOME ONE WITH THE MOUNTAINS, RIVERS, GRASS AND TREES. THAT'S THE SECRET TO THE PERFECTION THAT IS FISHING! QUIT YOUR JABBERING! YOU'LL SCARE THE FISH AWAY!

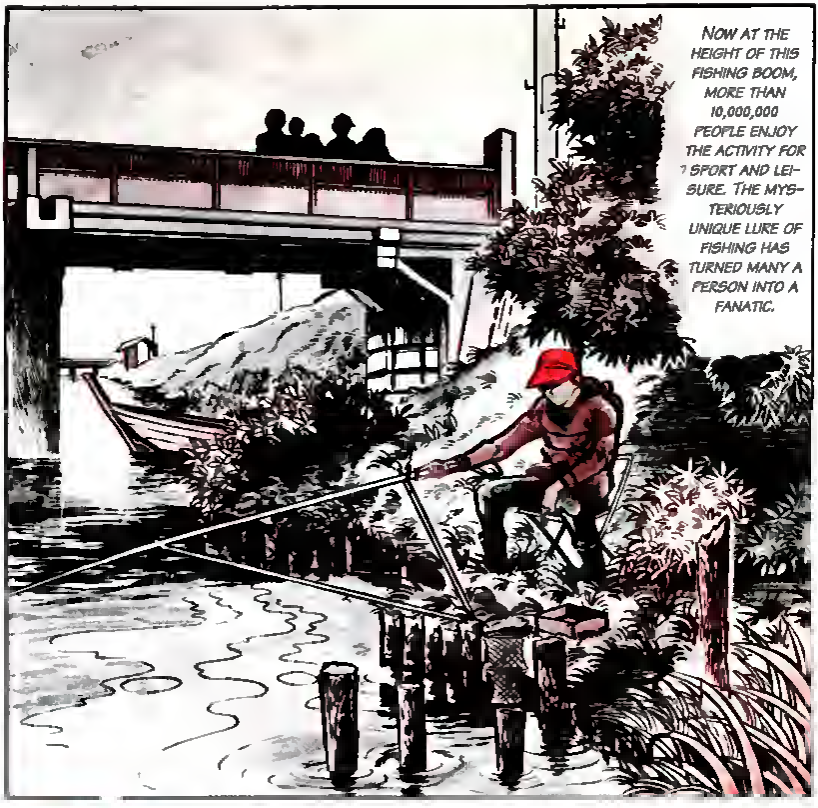
HAYASE:
BUT THOSE THAT CAN CATCH SOME THING ARE STILL BETTER THAN THOSE THAT CAN'T CATCH ANYTHING, RIGHT? HO THERE! I CAUGHT ANOTHER ONE.

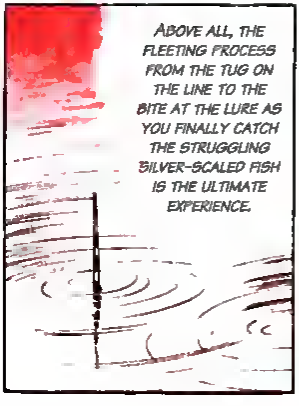
YAGUCHI: ....

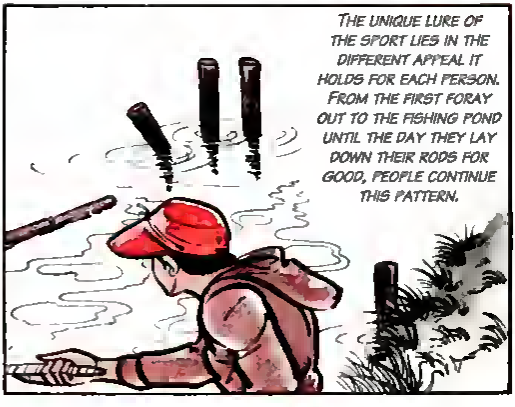
FISHING FOOLS

CHAPTER 1

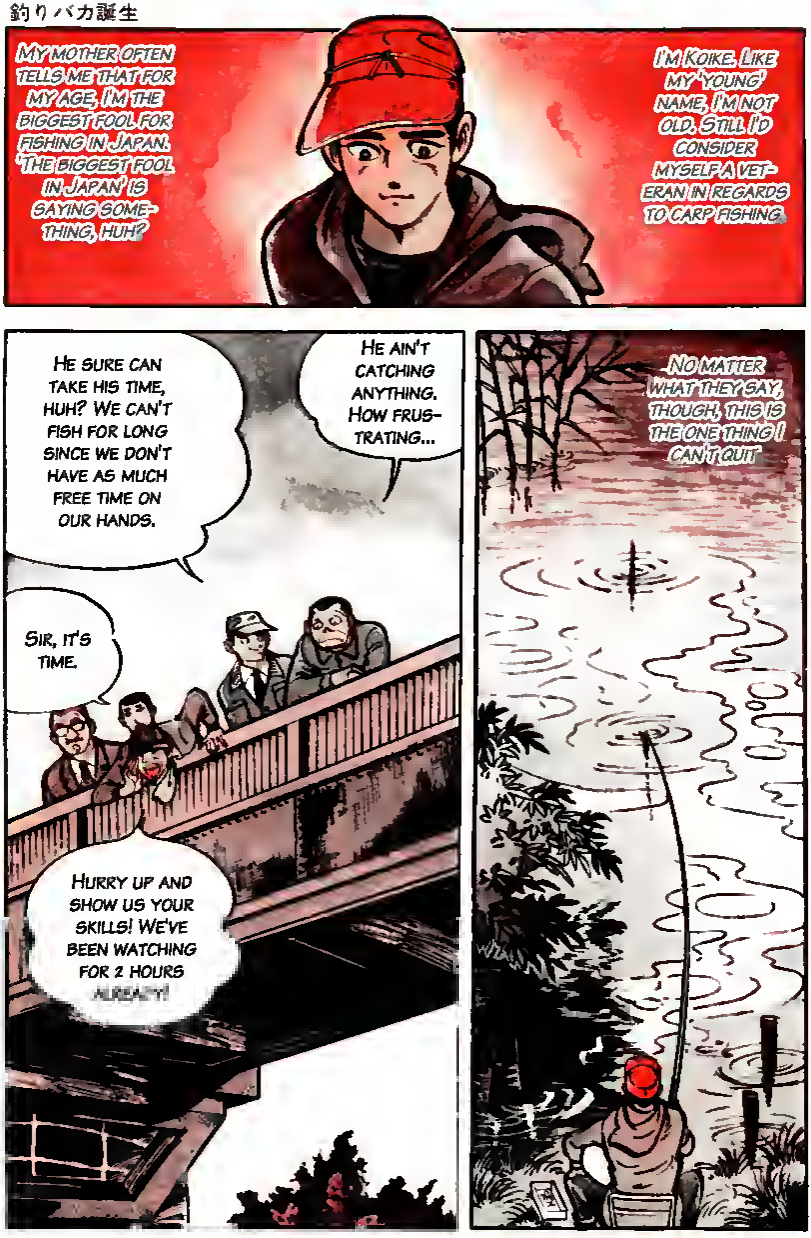
THE BIRTH OF A FISHING FOOL

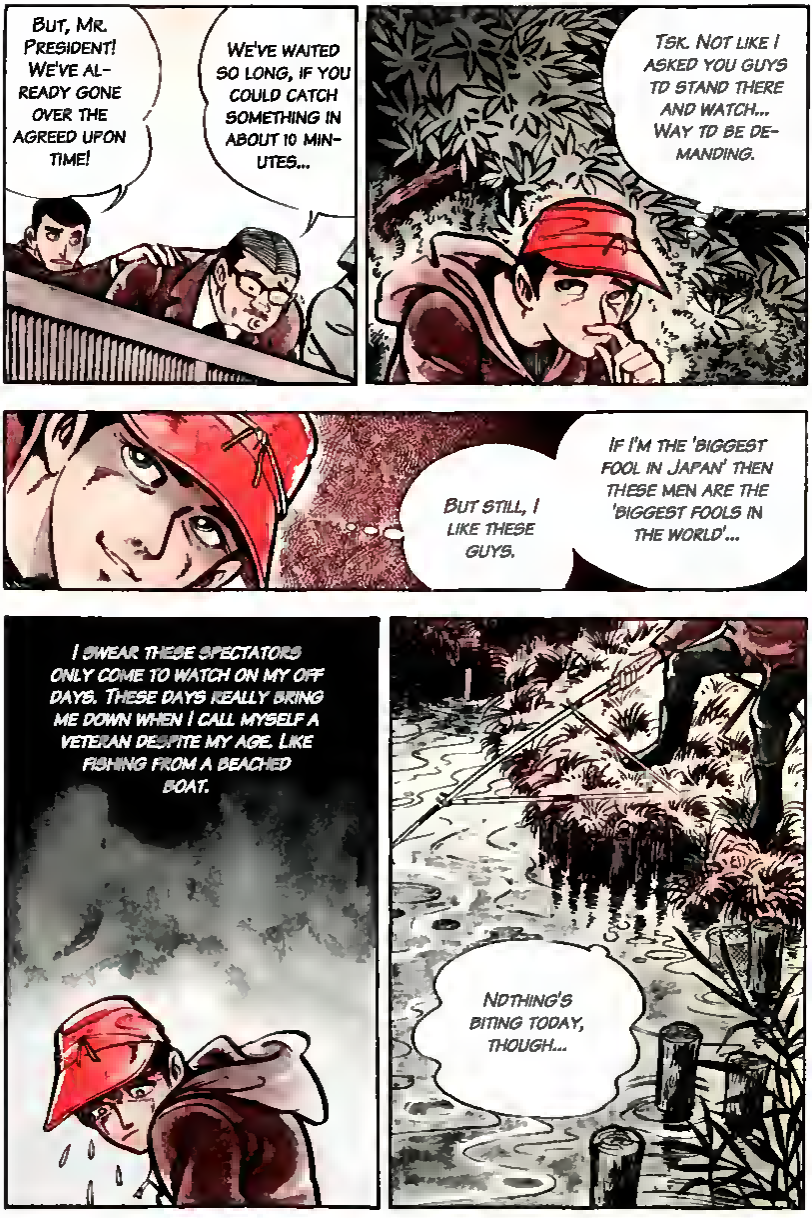

Now at the height of this fishing boom, more than 10,000,000 people enjoy the activity for sport and leisure. The mysteriously unique lure of fishing has turned many a person into a fanatic.


Above all, the fleeting process from the tug on the line to the bite at the lure as you finally catch the struggling silver-scaled fish is the ultimate experience.


The unique lure of the sport lies in the different appeal it holds for each person. From the first foray out to the fishing pond until the day they lay down their rods for good, people continue this pattern.

釣りバカ誕生


My mother often tells me that for my age, I'm the biggest fool for fishing in Japan. 'The biggest fool in Japan' is saying something, huh?
I'm Koike. Like my 'young' name, I'm not old. Still I'd consider myself a veteran in regards to carp fishing.
He sure can take his time, huh? We can't fish for long since we don't have as much free time on our hands.
He ain't catching anything. How frustrating...
Sir, it's time.
Hurry up and show us your skills! We've been watching for 2 hours already!
No matter what they say, though, this is the one thing I can't quit


But, Mr. President! We've already gone over the agreed upon time!
We've waited so long, if you could catch something in about 10 minutes...
Tsk. Not like I asked you guys to stand there and watch... Way to be demanding.
But still, I like these guys.
If I'm the 'biggest fool in Japan' then these men are the 'biggest fools in the world'...
I swear these spectators only come to watch on my off days. These days really bring me down when I call myself a veteran despite my age. Like fishing from a beached boat.
Nothing's biting today, though...

釣りバカ誕生
SFX ka-fssh!
SFX rustle rustle
MAYBE AFTER A SMOKE...
SFX cough
OF COURSE THIS WOULD HAPPEN...
THE FILTER PORTION
SFX bleh! bleh!
GRAH!
SFX: fwish
HAH! THERE IT IS!!

SFX tug tug tug
SFX splash
SFX spin spin
MR. PRESIDENT! HE CAUGHT ONE! HE CAUGHT IT!
RIGHT, NO THANKS TO YOU!
KEEP CALM! KEEP CALM...
HEART'S POUNDING, POUNDING!
SFX whack
AS FULFILLING AS A YOUNG LIFE FILLED WITH CATCHING WHITE CARP CAN BE...

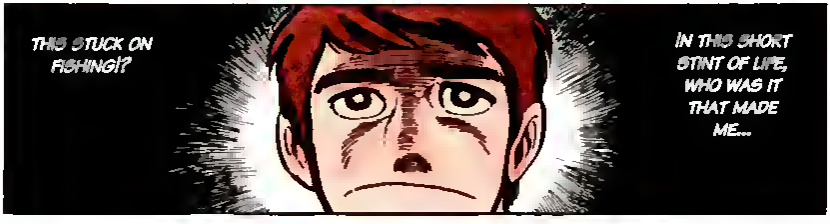
I SAID LOUD ENOUGH FOR THE ONLOOKERS TO HEAR.
THIS THING IS BARELY BETTER THAN CATCHING A KILLIFISH.

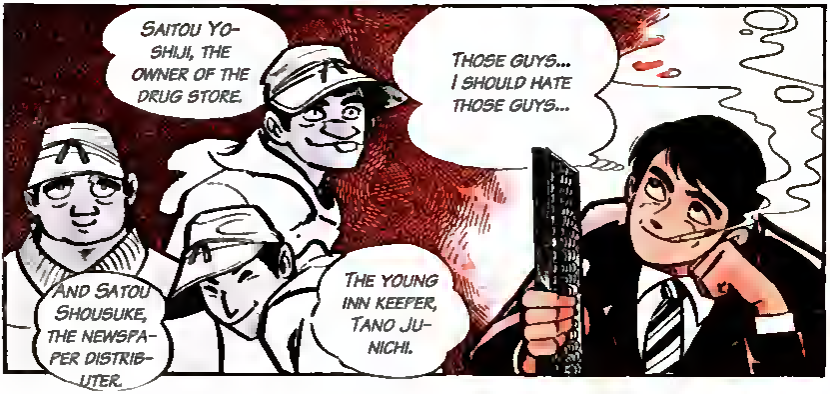
FROM A DIFFERENT ANGLE...

FROM THEIR POINT OF VIEW, THIS MUST LOOK LIKE A REALLY SLOPPY WAY OF CATCHING FISH...

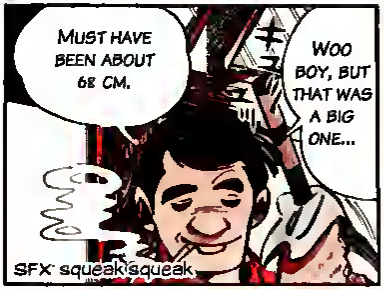
OH, SORRY FOR THE DELAY. I'M CALLED KOIKE TANAKA. I'M A LONELY OFFICE WORKER AT A MUTUAL SAVINGS BANK HERE IN THE BOONIES. I'M SUCH A FOOL FOR FISHING THAT I SPEND MY ONE DAY OFF A WEEK DOING NOTHING BUT. I HAVE NO LOVER TO SPEAK OF, SAVE FOR THE CARP I CATCH.

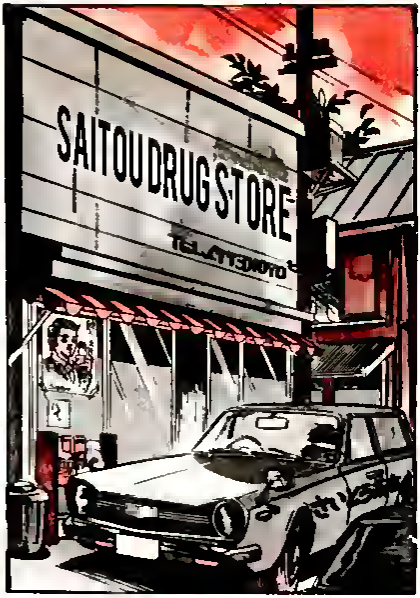
SFX: bump bump




SAITOU YOSHIJI, THE OWNER OF THE DRUG STORE.
AND SATOU SHOUSUKE, THE NEWSPAPER DISTRIBUTER.
THE YOUNG INN KEEPER, TANO JUNICHI.
THOSE GUYS... I SHOULD HATE THOSE GUYS...

釣りバカ誕生


MUST HAVE BEEN ABOUT 68 CM.
WOO BOY, BUT THAT WAS A BIG ONE...
SFX: squeak squeak


SAITOU DRUG STORE

SO YOU REALLY SAW THE THING?

WOW, 68 CM IS PRETTY BIG...

WELL, THE FISH THAT GET AWAY ALWAYS SEEM TO BE BIGGER, YOU KNOW.
NAH, DIDN'T ACTUALLY GET A LOOK AT IT. BUT IT DEFINITELY FELT LIKE 68 CM FROM THE PULL ON THE LINE.
THAT'S A PRETTY SPECIFIC SIZE FOR NOT HAVING ACTUALLY SEEN THE BEAST! HEH HEH HEH...

Looks like Saitou's started with his teasing. He'd be a great guy if not for that.
I'd rather fish on my own than have noisy guys like you come with me anyway. Huh huh huh....
I'm not asking you to believe me if you don't want to.
If it isn't Tanaka-kun from the bank! Startled me for a sec. Thought you were a tax collector.
Excuse me, it seems that the conversation has taken quite a turn...
Let the check become worthless paper, Tanaka-kun! It's from such a mean-spirited guy anyway. Ha ha ha!
Fine, see if I care if the check becomes nothing more than a piece of paper. Not my fault if your bank balance falls to nothing.
Fishing is all well and good, but you mustn't forget the deadline for our check either.
Hey, Kaa-san? Do you have a check for Tanaka-kun? He's here to collect.
A check? Did I owe you something like that?

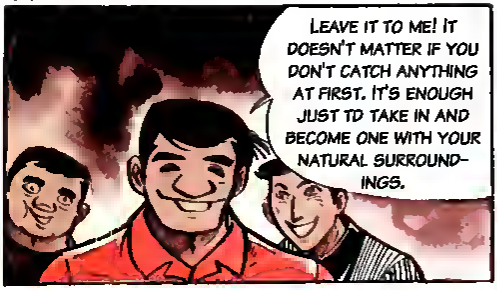
釣りバカ誕生

Where's the money you took out?
Oh my, Tanaka-kun! Thanks for you time. I was just about to go put money in the bank, myself.
Let the checks bounce, then. You plan on using your fishing skills to take care of the family, right?
Oh right, that's bad. If our checks bounce, the bank may put a hold on our account. Then our family would really be up a creek without a paddle.
Remember, dear. We used it on the Takezawa products.
It's because you pay more attention to your fishing rod than your old wife! Ha ha ha!
This is what happens when you don't give your wife the service she deserves.
Looks like a cold wind is blowing today. I'm all on my own over here huh? Heh heh.
And how much is this cash?
Come now, I'm not that old! Are you three silly old men ganging up on me? Hoh hoh hoh!

SFX flip flip
THOSE ARE THE PRO MOVES OF A BANK WORKER.
UNDERSTOOD.
ANY DEFICIT CAN BE TRANSFERRED FROM OUR SAVINGS.
TOU-SAN. DON'T FORGET TO ORDER THE FARMING GOODS AND DRINKS FROM UEDA'S FUJIHARA-SAN.
WELL, I'M NO WHERE NEAR AS MUCH A PRO AS YOU ARE WITH FISHING.
OH, HOW TROUBLESOME...
I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A DEEP CONVERSATIONS WITH THESE GUYS, SO LAY OFF A MINUTE.
AS LONG AS WE GET THOSE BY NIGHTFALL, WE'RE FINE.
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO TELL IT'S A CARP AS SOON AS THE TUG COMES.
THAT'S THE TRICK IF YOU USE THE 0.8 ON A CARP.

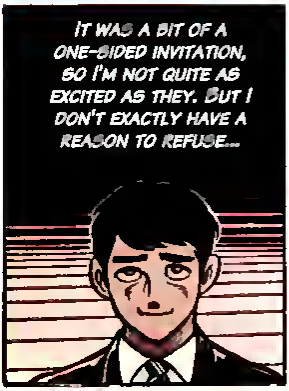
They'll suddenly pull, like this!
I see. It's up to luck.
That's the trick with carp. But you gotta have luck with you that day.
Huh, you didn't even have a change to dragged along? I see...
You've gotten me all fired up, Saitou-san.
No, this is about the one that got away!
Have you caught a big one before, Saitou-san?
'S that so? Well, that's against club rules. You wanna be kicked out?
I can't tell you that! He's my prey, heh heh heh...
But where's your fishing spot?

I'll tell you, Tanaka-kun, if you want, though.
You go find your own spot, if you're so frustrated.
One of our rules in the Fishing Friends Club says that 'All members must share all good fishing spots with each other.'
That sounds strict. What does he mean 'against club rules'?
You'll become a fishing fool in no time.
Oh don't take my husband up on his invitations, Tanaka-san.
Fishing with me?
Whaddya think? Will you keep it a secret from this guy if we go?
Don't bad mouth us. Call us 'enthusiasts' if you must.
Just take a look at these men. They're completely gone on fishing. How pitiful.
Your disposition is well-suited for fishing. You'll improve quickly, too!
You're not so bad off. A short temper is perfect for fishing!
I'm quick to anger, so I don't know if sitting still for so long would suit me.


Leave it to me! It doesn't matter if you don't catch anything at first. It's enough just to take in and become one with your natural surroundings.

We'll give you a workout, fella!
Alright, it's decided! Let's go this Sunday!

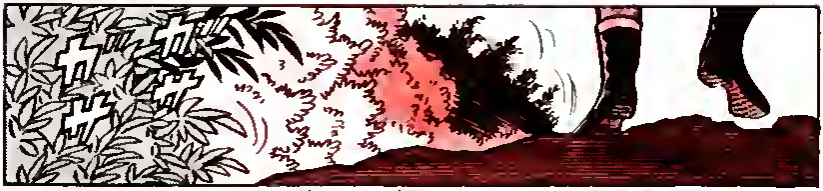
Who said I'd take you guys with me? You're wildly mistaken.


It was a bit of a one-sided invitation, so I'm not quite as excited as they. But I don't exactly have a reason to refuse...

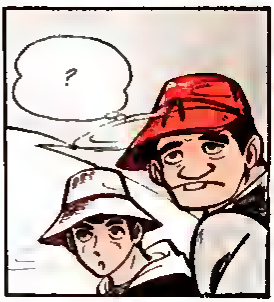
Aww, Saitou-san...

The short-fused people are more careful and do their research since they don't like sitting still. They check the condition of the hook, whether the bait's still attached...
That makes your skills improve quickly and it shows in the results. That's the value of real-life experience.
The absent-minded, laid-back guys can't catch anything.

SFX rustle rustle

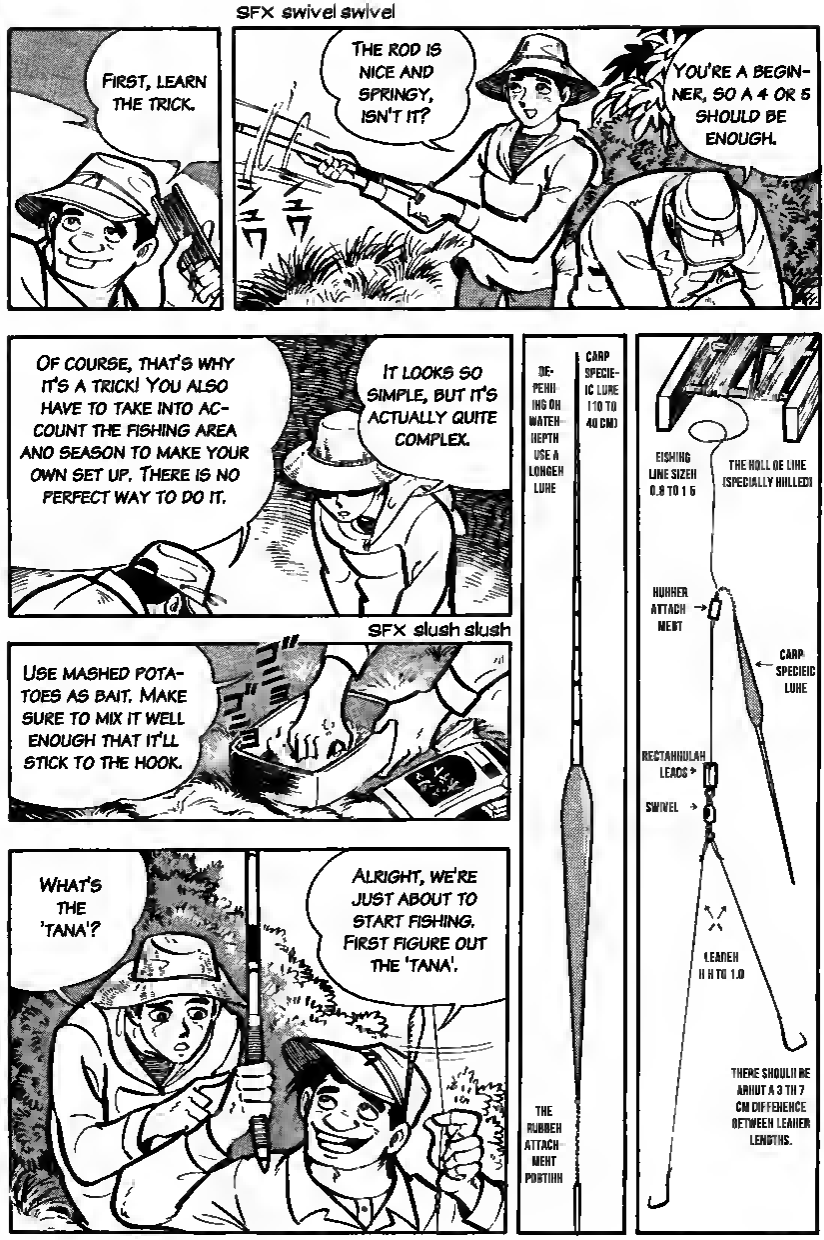


SFX bump rustle



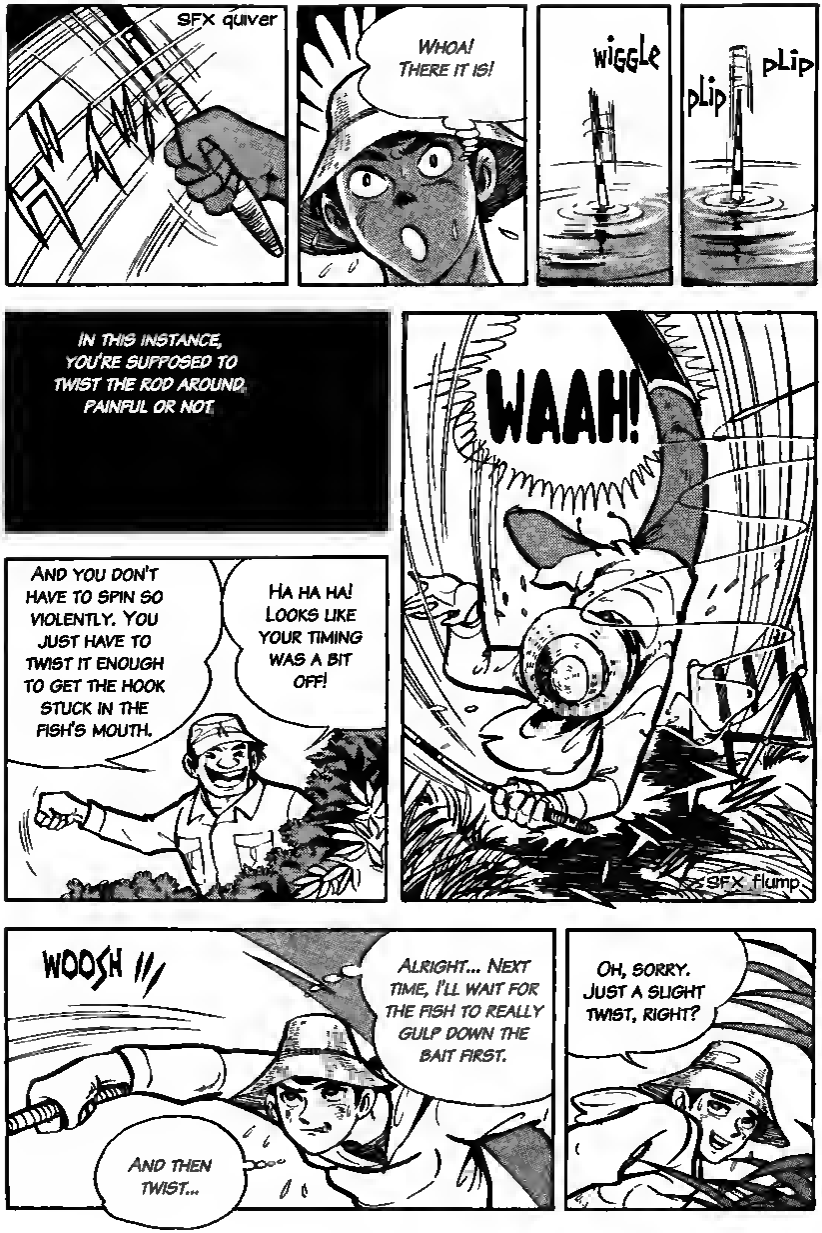
釣りバカ誕生

DO WHAT YOU WANT!
NOW, NOW, DON'T BE THAT WAY!
NO HELP FOR IT NOW.
IT'S MORE LIVELY WITH A BIGGER GROUP, DON'T YOU THINK?
NOW WE GOTTA KEEP THIS PLACE OF SAITOU-SAN'S A SECRET BETWEEN US FRIENDS HERE. HEH HEHE...
YAHOO! THIS IS IT? THIS PLACE LOOKS GREAT!
I GOTTA TRY MY HAND AT THIS PLACE! LET'S FISH! WAHOO!
US FIRST!


SFX swivel swivel
First, learn the trick.
The rod is nice and springy, isn't it?
You're a beginner, so a 4 or 5 should be enough.
Of course, that's why it's a trick! You also have to take into account the fishing area and season to make your own set up. There is no perfect way to do it.
It looks so simple, but it's actually quite complex.
SFX slush slush
Use mashed potatoes as bait. Make sure to mix it well enough that it'll stick to the hook.
What's the 'tana'?
Alright, we're just about to start fishing. First figure out the 'tana'.
Depending on water depth use a longer lure
Carp specific lure (10 to 40 cm)
The rubber attachment portion
Fishing line size: 0.8 to 1.5
The roll of line (specially milled)
Rubber attachment
Carp specific lure
Rectangular leads
Swivel
Leader 1.0 to 1.8
There should be about a 3 to 7 cm difference between leader lengths.

WOULD THIS WORK FOR THE 'TANA'?
OH, IT MEANS FIND THE DEPTH OF THE WATER BY DANGLING THE BAIT INTO THE WATER SO THAT THE LURE WILL GO THE CORRECT DISTANCE FROM THE SHORE.
WOW, THIS IS PRETTY EXCITING.
I DO IT TO RELAX. YOU'LL GET THERE SOON.
WITH BORROWED GEAR AND A SEASONED COACH TO TEACH ME, I STARTED THE REAL DEAL.
WOOSH
SFX plop
SFX vrrrr

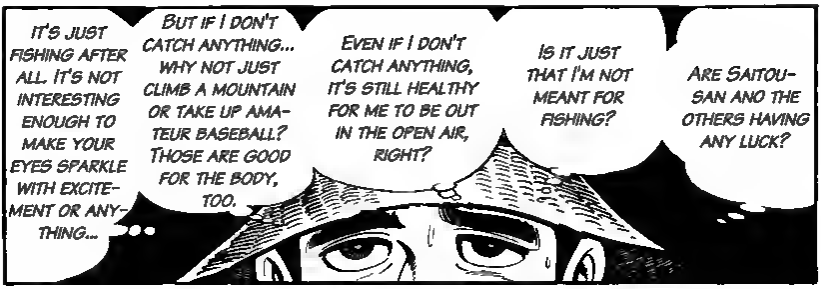
THIS WENT BETTER THAN DURING PRAC-TICE... YOU WANT THE END OF THE ROD IN THE WATER, RIGHT?
IT WAS MY FIRST TIME FISHING, SO I DIDN'T THINK I'D CATCH ANY-THING EASILY. I FIGURED THAT I COULD TAKE IT SLOW, BUT THE FIRST BITE CAME QUICKER THAN I EXPECTED.

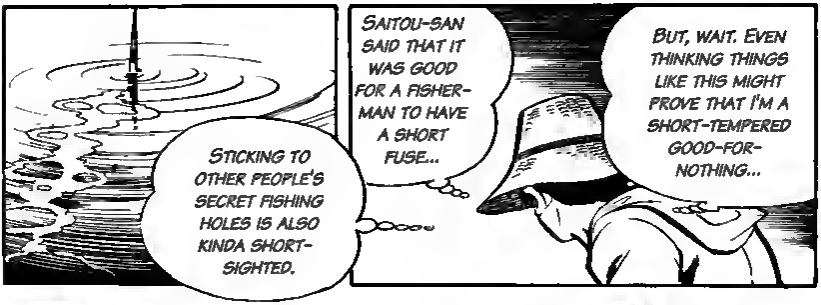

SFX quiver
WHOA! THERE IT IS!
wiggle
plip
plip
IN THIS INSTANCE, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO TWIST THE ROD AROUND, PAINFUL OR NOT.
WAAH!
AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO SPIN SO VIOLENTLY. YOU JUST HAVE TO TWIST IT ENOUGH TO GET THE HOOK STUCK IN THE FISH'S MOUTH.
HA HA HA! LOOKS LIKE YOUR TIMING WAS A BIT OFF!
SFX flump
WOOSH
ALRIGHT... NEXT TIME, I'LL WAIT FOR THE FISH TO REALLY GULP DOWN THE BAIT FIRST.
AND THEN TWIST...
OH, SORRY. JUST A SLIGHT TWIST, RIGHT?

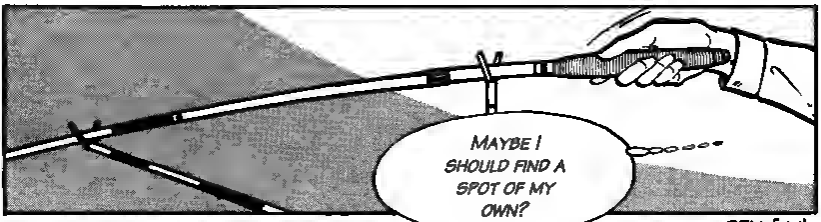
SFX: wiggle
SFX: twitch twitch
SFX: twirl twirl
IT WAS JUST A SIMPLE, NEWBIE STRATEGY. BUT, LOGICAL OR NOT, THE SECOND TIME I WAS SUCCESSFUL.
yank
TWIST
IT'S CAUGHT, SO DON'T PULL BACK TOO MUCH OR YOU'LL BREAK THE LINE. JUST LIKE THAT, SLOWLY...
WHAH! IT CAUGHT! WOW! IT'S GETTING PULLED AWAY!
SAITOU-SAAAN!
FASTER! FASTER! AAAH!

TWACK!!
SFX splash!!
DON'T! IF YOU PULL IT SO FAST, IT'LL BREAK-!!
SFX clump clump
SFX snap
AHH!
THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE MAKING LOUD NOISES.
FISH SURE CAN PULL! I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT FISHING COULD BE SO INTERESTING!
I THINK THE 0.8 LEADER WON'T WORK. LET'S TRY A THICKER ONE.
SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO ENDURE THE STRUGGLE FOR 10 MINUTES, SOMETIMES AN HOUR BEFORE IT GETS WEAK ENOUGH.
YOU WERE SO CLOSE. LOOKED TO BE ABOUT A 25 CM CARP.
THE LINE SNAPPED, I THINK...

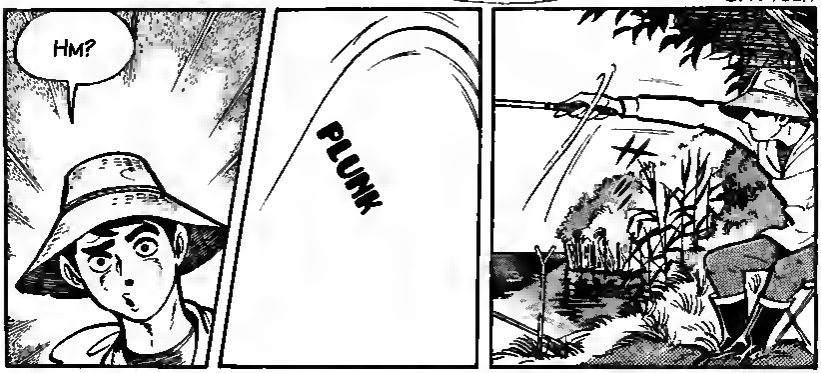
The fish I let escape left such a lasting impression on me, I couldn't even pay attention to the scenery around me. Unblinking, I fixed my eyes on the lure. The only sound I could hear was the gulp of my own spit and the thrum of my pulse in my temples.
Nope, nada. Wonder how they're doing over there?
Nothing was biting today.
Like a broken line, the fish stopped biting. I checked the hook many times, but the lure never twitched. I started wondering if maybe the fish from earlier warned his buddies in the water to steer clear of us.


It's just fishing after all. It's not interesting enough to make your eyes sparkle with excitement or anything...
But if I don't catch anything... why not just climb a mountain or take up amateur baseball? Those are good for the body, too.
Even if I don't catch anything, it's still healthy for me to be out in the open air, right?
Is it just that I'm not meant for fishing?
Are Saitou-san and the others having any luck?


Sticking to other people's secret fishing holes is also kinda short-sighted.
Saitou-san said that it was good for a fisherman to have a short fuse...
But, wait. Even thinking things like this might prove that I'm a short-tempered good-for-nothing...


Maybe I should find a spot of my own?

SFX fssh


Hm?
PLUNK

SFX: yank
SFX: wssh wssh wssh
DID THE ROD GET CAUGHT ON SOMETHING IN THE WATER?
SFX: tug tug tuuuug
WHOA! WHAT'S THIS?!
TUG TUG TUG TUUUUUUUG
WHAH!!

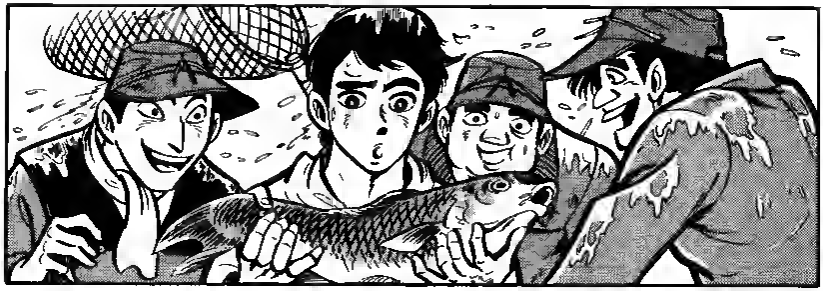
WHOAA-AHHH!
SAITOU-SAAAAN! PLEASE COME HERE AND DO SOMETHING!!
A SUBMARINE?! A WHALE?!
SFX pull pull pull
TANAKA-KUN, WHAT'S WRONG!?
SFX SPLOOOSH!
ドボボ

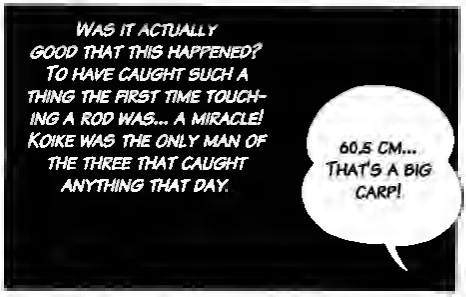
I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING! IT'S JUST WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE! I'M CAUGHT ON SOMETHING!!
HOLD ON! WE'LL GET YOU!
GET THE NET! THE NET!
COULD IT BE THAT HUGE FISH?!

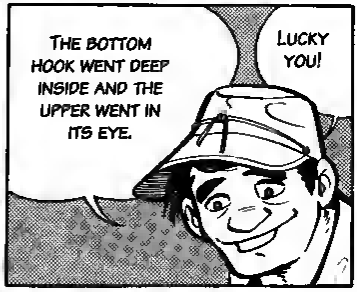
SFX puuu
SFX cough gag

DON'T LET GO OF THAT ROD, EVEN IF IT KILLS YOU!
ACK! IT'S GOING DEEPER AND DEEPER!
I-I CAN'T HOLD ON!... BURBLE!

SFX: SPLOOSH!
WHOA!




WAS IT ACTUALLY GOOD THAT THIS HAPPENED? TO HAVE CAUGHT SUCH A THING THE FIRST TIME TOUCHING A ROD WAS... A MIRACLE! KOIKE WAS THE ONLY MAN OF THE THREE THAT CAUGHT ANYTHING THAT DAY.
60.5 CM... THAT'S A BIG CARP!



CHAPTER 1: THE BIRTH OF A FISHING FOOL (END)

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釣りバカたち 第1集

矢口高雄

コミックターミナル COMIC TERMINAL presents